

Robert S. Burroughs House
6 Cooke Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-212

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
112-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ROBERT S. BURROUGHS HOUSE

Address: 6 Cooke Street, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island. Plat 17, Lot 560. HABS RI, 4-PROV, 112-

Present Owner: Mrs. Albert Harkness, 5 Cooke Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Present Occupants: Prof. and Mrs. Mylonas

Present Use: Dwelling.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a typical example of a medium-sized frame house in Providence built between 1814 and 1817.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

I. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1814 Mss. tax descriptions in the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, for the 1814 Providence direct tax to the federal government: Joseph S Cooke: "...Also 1 unimproved lot of ground near the residence of James Fenner (part of what was former-called Young Orchard) and containing about 7 acres."
- 1817 Joseph S Cooke for \$110 sells to Robert S Burroughs a certain lot of land bounded: N by Hannah Cusling 100'; E by Hannah Hack 84'; S by grantor 100'; W by Cooke Street 84'...and is lot #13 on plat of house lots as recorded in Book #39 page 297 and is the lot on which the said Burroughs has created a DWELLING HOUSE. - Deed Book 43, page 144, in Providence City Hall.
- 1824 Robert S. Burroughs listed here and the ONLY one on Cooke St. - Providence Directory.
- 1830 Robert S Burroughs mortgages the above property to Lydia J Armington for \$2000...being the several purchased by me from Joseph S Cooke et al...together with the Dwelling House and other buildings, and being place of my present residence - Deed Book 59, page 237, in Providence City Hall.

- 1831 Jabez J Potter, sheriff, levies on the property of Robert S Burroughs and sells at public auction for \$15 to Lydia Armington the highest bidder, a certain lot with buildings and improvements in the Young Orchard bounded: W by Cooke Street...it being the same estate occupied by said Burroughs. - Deed Book 60, page 141, in Providence City Hall.
- 1834 Property taxed to Charles Potter and West Providence Land Company.
- 1842 Lydia Armington sells to Albert H Burroughs a certain parcel of land in the SE part of Providence called the Young Orchard...together with the Dwelling House and other buildings. Bound: N by Young Orchard 313'; E by the street running past the house of Governor Fenner 138'; S 230'; and W 178' on Cooke Street running N beginning 100' from the SE corner of Cooke and Power Streets. - Deed Book 84, page 196, in Providence City Hall.
- 1843 Albert H Burroughs gives trusteeshop to George Burroughs of the above property...it being the same estate conveyed to grantor by deed from Lydia Armington in 1842. - Deed Book 85, page 197, in Providence City Hall.
- 1865 Property taxed to William Granger.
- 1873 Property taxed to City of Providence.
- Property taxed to the following in year shown:
- 1905 Antoinette E and Lillian F Draper and Anna F D Glezen.
- 1917 Antoinette E Draper and Anna F D Glezen
- 1918 Antoinette E Draper, Robert J Draper and Anna F D Glezen
- 1923 Antoinette E and Lillian E P Draper and Anna F D Glezen.
- 1926 Lillian E P Draper and Anna F D Glezen
- 1932 Robert J Draper and Anna F D Glezen
- 1933 Anna F D Glezen

- 1933 Richmond Sweet, by decree of the Superior Court, appointed trustee of the real estate under deed trust from Albert H Burroughs to George Burrough trustee, gives and grants to Anna F D Glezen all right and title to the following property..4 lots of land with all buildings on the E/ly side of Cooke Street being lots A B C and H on Plat Card 185. (This property is Lot "A" with Dwelling House). - Deed Book 761, page 495, in Providence City Hall.
- 1936 WILL: Anna F D Glezen. "Sixteenth: I give and devise all land, together with buildings and improvements thereon situated on Cooke Street in Providence to the three sons of my cousin Martha B Swain viz: Leonard, Robert B and Charles F Swain as tenants in common"...Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company, trustees. - Wills Book 307, page 226, in Providence City Hall.

Property taxed to the following in year shown:

- 1937 Leonard, Charles F and Robert B Swain
- 1944 Leonard Swain and Charles F Swain
- 1947 Leonard Swain 3/4 and Robert Swain 1/4
- 1950 Property taxed to Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co, tr u/w Leonard and Robert Swain
- 1950 Property taxed to Hope K H Powell, Mrs. Albert Harkness.

2. Date of erection: Between 1814 and 1817

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing, Elvira Cowdey and
Natalie Saltonstall
for the Providence Preservation Society
April 1962.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is an example of a medium-sized frame house built between 1814 and 1817, with typical details for the period in Providence including the monitor roof.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Five bays, about 39' x 36', with rear addition about 20' x 36', two stories, facing west.
2. Foundations: Stone, two side cellar windows, foundation rises about one foot above ground.
3. Wall construction: Clapboard with wood corner quoins.
4. Porches, stoops, etc.: Uncovered brick terrace looks over garden and faces south, cellar bulkhead on north side.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, on north and south ends of house.
6. Opening:
 - a. Doors and doorways: Central entrance with double flight of stairs (four steps) from street. Entrance has eight-panel wood door with side lights and elliptical top. Doorway framed with rusticated wood quoins and voussoirs. Two rear entrances, on north and south sides of addition.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Six over six light double hung windows with louvered shutters. Simple window frames with molded caps. Monitor has three, three-light windows on each side.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: Asphalt shingles on a hipped roof with monitor.
 - b. Cornice: Boxed molded cornices with latticework balustrades on both roof and monitor.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Central hall plan with narrow entrance hall leading to a room used as hall beyond, parlor to south, dining room to northeast, kitchen in rear addition.
2. Stairways: Main stairs in entrance hall, open string, three slender balusters per step, landing with right angle turn, two steps from top, molded hand rail, open fan step end ornament, turned newel, shadow rail, hand rail continues on second floor around square open well. Steep back stairs in rear of house.

3. Flooring: Wide solid floor boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted, or papered.
5. Doorways and doors: Six-panel doors throughout house, sunk panels, molded mitred architraves. Window architraves have same type of molding continuing to floor, through the wainscoting. Dining room door and window moldings have square corner blocks.
6. Trim: Paneled wainscoting in all rooms except living room, which has plaster dado with a wooden molded chair rail. The cornice and molded rail of wainscot in living room are decorated with rosettes and dentils. Interior shutters on windows. Wooden molded cornices in all rooms; dining room cornice projects onto ceiling surface $3/4$ foot.
7. Hardware: Large iron locks and latches in all doors with brass doorknobs.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central; fireplaces in parlor and dining room with one-story wood mantels, elliptical pattern on entablature, large overhanging shelves, marble facings. Three upstairs mantels on bedroom fireplaces, simple one-story, undecorated except for hourglass-shaped colonettes supporting mantel shelf in north bedroom.

D. Site

1. General setting: House faces west on the sidewalk line, medium-sized level lot, residential area.
2. Enclosures: High picket fence surrounds lot, front fence opens to path on south side to garden.
3. Outbuildings: garden house.
4. Walks: Walks to back of lot on north and south side.
5. Landscaping: Informal garden in rear.

Prepared by Natalie Saltonstall
for the Providence Preservation Society
and Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
April 1962